

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JOHN AMORY JEFFRIES, one of the original Active Members of the A. O. U., died of pneumonia, March 26, 1892, at his home in Boston, after an illness of but a few days. Dr. Jeffries was born in Milton, Massachusetts, Sept. 2, 1859, and was the youngest son of John and Anna Lloyd [Greene] Jeffries. He entered Harvard College in 1877, and graduating with honors in 1881, began immediately the study of medicine at the Harvard Medical School. He received the degree of M. D. in 1884 and then went to Europe where for two years more he continued his studies, spending most of the time in Vienna and Berlin. In 1886 he returned to Boston, and from that time until his death was busily engaged in the practice of his profession. He was married, Sept. 26, 1889, to Emily Augusta, daughter of the late Frederick Eustis of Milton, who with one son survives him.

Dr. Jeffries' interest in ornithology developed early, and the active field work which he and his brother, Mr. W. A. Jeffries, carried on together gave him, even before he entered college, an unusually thorough knowledge of local ornithology as well as a very considerable collection of birds. His love of outdoor study continued always, but as time went on he turned his attention more and more to anatomical and biological work. During the years of college and medical school he found time to do a surprising amount of anatomical and embryological work upon birds, giving his attention largely to the development of feathers and other epidermal structures. Although but few of the results of these studies ever appeared in print, yet a number of articles in the *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* and one important paper, 'The Epidermal System of Birds' (*Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXII, 1883, pp. 203-241), serve to show the principal directions his investigations took.

The training in biological methods that he acquired in this work, together with his love of research, very naturally led him, as his medical studies advanced, into the new field that was opening in bacteriology. To this he devoted much time in the laboratories of Vienna and Berlin, and after his return to Boston he carried out important investigations, which it would be out of place to detail here, but which made him well known among bacteriologists and early led to his election to membership in the American Pediatric Association. His other medical work, aside from the labor of a growing practice, was largely in nervous diseases. Here, up to the time of his death, he had written but little, but with characteristic assiduity had done a great amount of laborious histological study, with the intention of thoroughly grounding himself in the very complex anatomy of the central nervous system.

Dr. Jeffries possessed mental gifts well qualified to raise him above his fellows, a quick apprehension, a clear logical sense, and sound judgment. but it was fully as much to certain moral qualities as to his intellectual

force that he owed his successes and the promise of a brilliant career that opened before him. He was a hard worker and a most persevering one, never discouraged by drudgery that would appal most men, and in consequence a comprehensive thoroughness in details characterized all his work. He possessed one strong element of success in his absolute fearlessness, both physical and mental. No risks or difficulties dismayed him, or stood in the way of undertakings from which other men shrank back, but which his courage and tenacity of purpose enabled him to carry to a successful end. He also possessed in a high degree a spirit of scientific scepticism that made him cautious of accepting unconfirmed statements of others without testing them by personal observation of his own, and induced him to repeat, as far as opportunity offered, every important observation recorded by previous workers in the line of research he might be following. The advantage he gained in a securer foundation for his work and in a greater practical familiarity with his subject, can hardly be overestimated.

It is not merely the partiality of friendship that makes us see in his early death a great loss to his profession and to science. Superior intellectual qualities, unappeasable thirst for knowledge, reverence for truth, and an earnest devotion to work, hold the sure promise of a life of high usefulness and honor. Of the warm heart and absolute sincerity that gave him so strong a hold upon those who knew him well, this is not the place to speak. Indeed only those who have shared his friendship can fully comprehend the loss his death involves.

WE LEARN that Mr. B. Quaritch of 15 Picadilly, London, will shortly commence the publication of a new edition of Elliot's 'Monograph of the Pittidae,' which was originally completed about thirty years ago. The new work will contain all the known species of the family, a large number of which have been described since the original work was completed, and the text will be entirely re-written by Mr. Elliot, bringing the whole subject up to date. The book will be issued in parts containing ten plates each, and it is expected to finish the work in five parts. Information can be obtained regarding the book from Mr. Quaritch.

DR. ERNST HARTERT, having finished his Catalogue of the Caprinulgidae for the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, has sailed for Venezuela, where he intends remaining a year to collect the birds of that country and adjoining islands. He has selected a most inviting field, and we doubt not his labors will be well rewarded.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. George B. Sennett, we are able to present with this number a colored plate of the Rio Grande Turkey, described by Mr. Sennett in the last number of the 'Auk' (Vol. IX, pp. 167-169).